

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present Application. With this Response, Applicant amends claims 1 and 16. All pending claims are shown in the detailed listing above.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 6-7, 9, 11-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious in view of Fitzgerald (U.S. Patent 5,835,361) in light of Nilssen (U.S. Patent 6,107,749). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Examiner admits, “Fitzgerald does not show a resonant circuit coupled to the primary to provide power to the control logic.” But the Examiner asserts, “Nilssen shows in figure 4, e.g., a resonant circuit including a tank inductor (Lx) and a tank capacitor (Cx) which provide power to the controller (Icx) through the various intervening circuitry. It would have been obvious to provide power to a controller using a resonant circuit of Nilssen into the circuit of Fitzgerald for the reason of providing a means to power the controller independent of an outside power supply.” Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Contrary to the Examiner’s assertion, the tank inductor (Lx) and the tank capacitor (Cx) do not provide power to controller (Icx) in Nilssen. Nilssen discloses that the controller (Icx) has positive and negative DC supply terminals A+ and A-. See Nilssen, col. 6, lines 53-56. Figure 4 of Nilssen shows that tank inductor (Lx) and the tank capacitor (Cx) are not even connected to these power supply terminals, and thus do not provide power to the controller (Icx). Indeed, Nilssen discloses an operation which is opposite to that alleged by the Examiner. That is, in Nilssen, power is supplied *to* the inductor and capacitor. See Nilssen, Abstract (“The amount of power supplied by the inverter to the series resonant L-C circuit and/or to the fluorescent lamp at any given moment depends on four significant factors....”).

As such, Fitzgerald and Nilssen do not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the limitations of Applicant’s claim 1 including, for example, “wherein the resonant circuit is

operable to provide operating power for the control logic.” Thus, the cited references do not render obvious Applicant’s claim 1.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and this claim be allowed. Furthermore, because claims 6, 7, 9, 11, and 12 depend from claim 1 and include further limitations, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) also be withdrawn and that claims 6, 7, 9, 11, and 12 be allowed.

Applicant’s claim 13 recites, *inter alia*, “powering the control logic by the power device, the resonant circuit and the voltage regulator.” As discussed above, this is not disclosed or taught by Fitzgerald and Nilssen, either taken alone or in combination. Thus, the cited references do not render obvious Applicant’s claim 13.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and this claim be allowed. Furthermore, because claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13 and include further limitations, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) also be withdrawn and that claims 14 and 15 be allowed.

Applicant’s claim 16 recites, *inter alia*, “wherein the resonant circuit is operable to provide operating power for the control logic.” Such limitation is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited references, as previously discussed, and thus, Fitzgerald and Nilssen do not render obvious Applicant’s claim 16.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and this claim be allowed. Furthermore, because claim 17 depends from claim 16 and include further limitations, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of this dependent claim under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) also be withdrawn and that claim 17 be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 2-5, 8, 10, 18, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Each of these claims depend from one of claims 1, 13, and 16, which as discussed above, should be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-5, 8, 10, 18, and 19 also include further limitations. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) also be withdrawn and that claims 2-5, 8, 10, 18, and 19 be allowed

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-7428.

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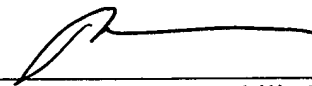
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